about 141 million hectares is net cultivated area. Of this, about 56 million hectare (40%) is irrigated and the remaining 85 million ha (60%) is rainfed.

(b) Government of India has accorded very high priority to the holistic and sustainable development of rainfed areas through integrated watershed management approach. The current strategy of various ongoing projects in the States, including the State of Uttarakhand, for development of rainfed areas is based on the concept of conservation of rainwater for integrated development of watersheds, promotion of diversified and integrated farming systems approach, management of common property resources and augmenting family income and nutritional levels of participating watershed communities. A National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) has been set up by the Government of India on 03.11.2006. The Authority is mandated to provide much needed knowledge inputs regarding systematic up-gradation and management of country's dry land and rainfed agriculture and to bring about convergence and synergy among the numerous ongoing watershed programmes.

(c) The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing the National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) and Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone Rivers (RVP & FPR) Schemes in the State of Uttarakhand which addresses the development of rainfed and degraded areas. The physical and financial progress of these two schemes in Uttarakhand up to 31st March, 2007 is as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Progress up to 31st March, 2007	
		Physical (Area in lakh ha)	Financial (Rs. in crore)
1.	NWDPRA	1.21	66.25
2.	RVP & FPR	1.89	97.18
	TOTAL:	3.10	163.43

Terminal markets for agricultural produces

608. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up terminal markets for agricultural produces with the private/co-operative sector participation in the country;

(b) if so, the details of their locations;

(c) the features thereof and the funds released for the purpose; and

(d) when the said scheme is expected to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs in its meeting held on 02.11.2006 has approved the implementation of Central Sector Reform-Linked Scheme for setting up of modern Terminal Markets Projects under National Horticulture Mission. The Operational Guidelines of the Scheme have been circulated to those States, which have amended their laws dealing with agricultural marketing to allow setting up of markets in private and cooperative sector and direct marketing. Under this scheme, the setting up of Terminal Markets is not location specific and can be set up by the State Government, or, if preferred by the State Government, then by the selected Enterprise, at any suitable location on the basis of specificities of that area and the economic viability of the project. Accordingly, the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Chandigarh have initiated action for setting up of terminal markets.

(c) and (d) These Terminal Markets would provide state of the art infrastructure facilities for electronic auction, cold chain and logistics and operate through primary collection centres conveniently located in producing areas to allow easy access to farmers. The terminal markets are envisaged to operate on a "hub-and-spoke" format wherein the terminal market (the hub) would be linked to a number of collection centres (the spokes), conveniently located in key production centres to allow easy access to farmers for the marketing of their produce. The Terminal Market would be built, owned and operated by a Corporate/Private/Co-operative entity either by itself or through adoption of an outsourcing model. The enterprise could be a consortium of entrepreneurs from agri-business, cold chain, logistics, warehousing, agri-infrastructure and related background. The enterprise would charge user charge for the services provided.

Implementation and successful operation of this path-breaking initative would necessitate State Government support. The Central/State Government will lend its support to the initiative by providing financial support to the project by way of equity participation upto maximum 49%, which would be determined through a competitive bidding process. The disinvestments of Government equity shall be done at an appropriate time at market/fair value and not at face value. So far, no financial assistance has been released under the scheme as the projects are only at the initial stages.

Foodgrains production in Bihar

†609. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present position regarding foodgrains production in Bihar; and

(b) the total quantum of foodgrains required by Bihar at present and the total requirement of foodgrains by the year 2020 keeping in view the increasing population as a major factor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) As per the latest 4th advance estimates, foodgrains production in Bihar stands at 10.50 million tonnes during 2006-07.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi